

CLASSIFICATION <u>SECRET</u>		25X1A
COUNTRY <u>East Germany</u>	SECURITY INFORMATION <u>REPORT NO</u>	
TOPIC <u>Merseburg Airfield</u>		
<u>25X1X1</u>		25X1A
DATE OF CONTENT <u>13 to 24 March 1953</u>		
	DATE PREPARED <u>24 April 1953</u>	
REFERENCES <u>25X1A</u>		
PAGES <u>2</u>	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) <u>2 - two sketches on ditto</u>	
REMARKS		
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1. Air activity observed at Merseburg airfield from 16 through 24 March 1953 included:

16 March. From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., individual MiG-15s made local training flights at the field in fair weather.

17 March. From 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., there was light local training activity in fair weather.

18 March. There was little flying in fair weather.

19 March. No flying was observed.

20 March. At 6 p.m., a MiG-15, which apparently came from another airfield, landed at the field. The weather was fair.

21 through 24 March. No air activity was observed in fair weather.

2. The following details were observed during the diving practices held on 13 March 1953:

The planes involved took off individually and climbed steeply until they had reached an altitude of about 2,000 meters. They then flew a left curve toward Launa from where they headed to the center of Merseburg. From Merseburg they followed the railroad line to Halle as far as the airfield where they side slipped to the left after they had reduced their speed at a point about one km before the airfield. The dive was performed at an angle of about 80 degrees. The planes pulled out and had reached the horizontal flight position at an altitude of about 500 meters. Source believed that the target attacked was at the eastern end of the landing field.¹

3. Fifteen aircraft revetments were being built along a line about 50 meters north of the runway. The revetments consisted of earth walls and their openings pointed toward the runway. Similar aircraft revetments were under construction at the southeastern portion of the runway between the taxiway and the western hangar. An excavator was used for the work.

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Two bunkers supported by timber were being built in the southern lane of the target range.²

4. A device, 6 to 7 meters high, apparently a radar set, was seen in northeastern portion of the field, near the single story semi-permanent buildings. At its lower end, the device converged like a funnel. Six radio trucks without antennas were observed near the set. Three radio antennas arranged in an triangle had been set up behind the eastern single story semi-permanent building. An SCR-602 type radar set was seen east of the hangars; another radar set was about 50 meters southwest of the former set. Two radio trucks were seen east of the sets. In March, source observed a new antenna system south of the target range. Source saw only the upper section of the system which looked like a double T and was tilted at an estimated angle of 20 degrees.³

5. Near the AA gun emplacement with six guns east of the airfield a twin-barrelled gun was being emplaced. The two barrels were braced so that they were rotatable only simultaneously. The guns had funnel-shaped muzzles. The gun crews who wore red-bordered black epaulets were quartered at the barracks installation in a building near the athletic field.⁴

6. On 21 March, source observed three railroad tank cars near the fuel dump west of the western hangar.

1. Comment. The headquarters of a fighter division and a fighter regiment are believed to be stationed at Merseburg airfield. Source's statements on the diving practices observed at the field refer to information contained in a previous report. Diving practices held by MiG-15s were also observed at other East German airfields.

2. Comment. For location of aircraft revetments see Annex 1.

3. Comment. So far it has been known that a Dumbo type, an SCR-602 type radar set and a set with two Yagi antennas were available at the field. It is believed that the new radar set observed in the northwestern portion at the field was a CPS-6 type set. See Annexes 1 and 2. Sets of the same type were observed in Gardelegen and Grossberndten.

The type of the radar set observed south of the target range cannot be determined. It is possibly an SCR-602 set. The location of so many radar sets at the field indicates that the installation plays a prominent role in the organization in the network of Soviet radar stations in East Germany.

4. Comment. The presence of a light AAA battery at the eastern edge of Merseburg airfield was previously known. For location of the emplacement see Annex 1. The newly emplaced twin-barrelled gun may have been a gun with 2 x 25-mm barrels.

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Legend.

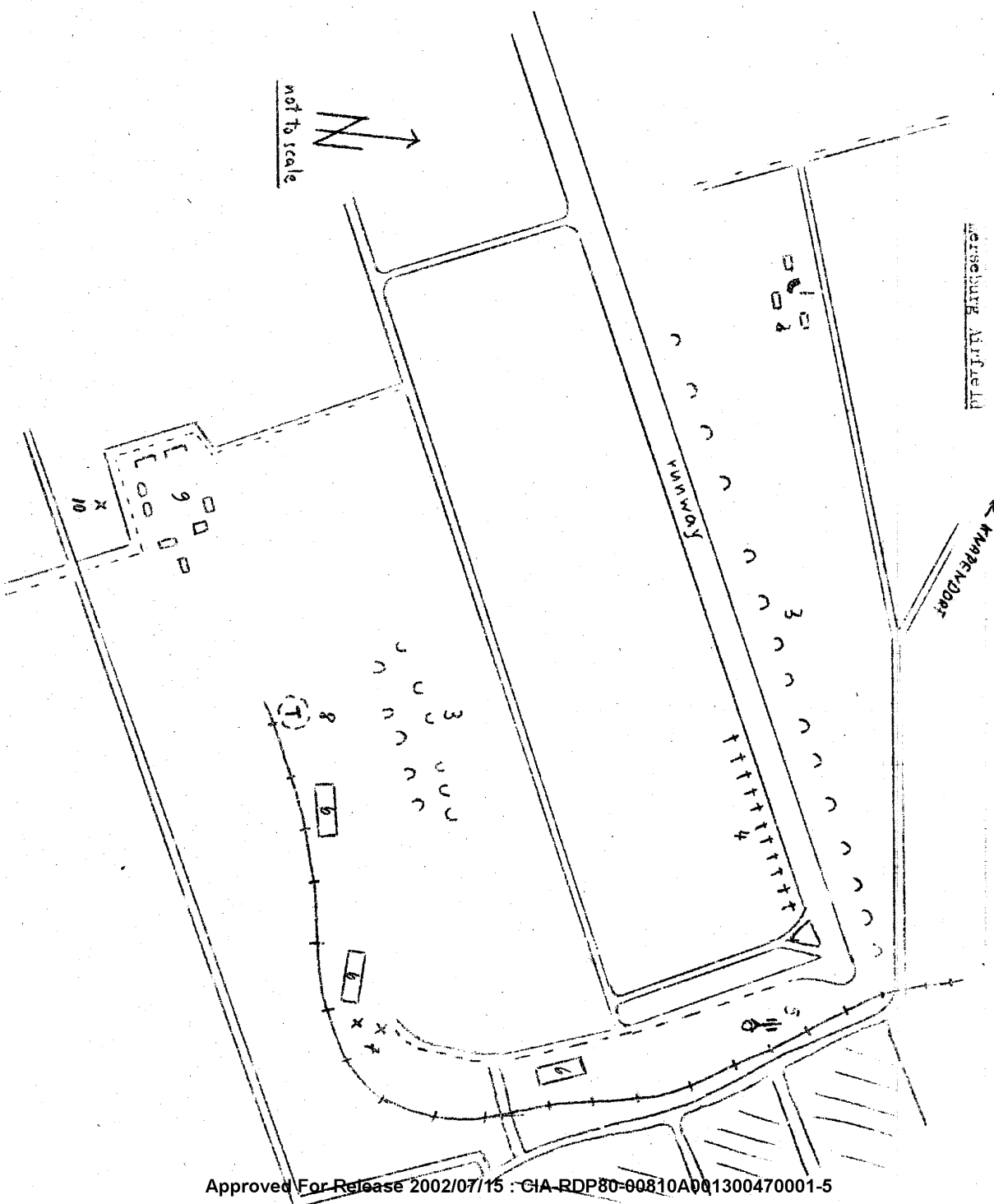
- 1 New CPS-6 type radar set
- 2 Single story semi-permanent buildings
- 3 Aircraft revetments
- 4 MIG-15s (parked on 21 March 1953)
- 5 Emplaced 37-mm AA guns
- 6 Hangers
- 7 Two radar sets including SCR-602 set
- 8 Fuel dumps
- 9 Target range
- 10 Radar set, possibly an SCR-602 set

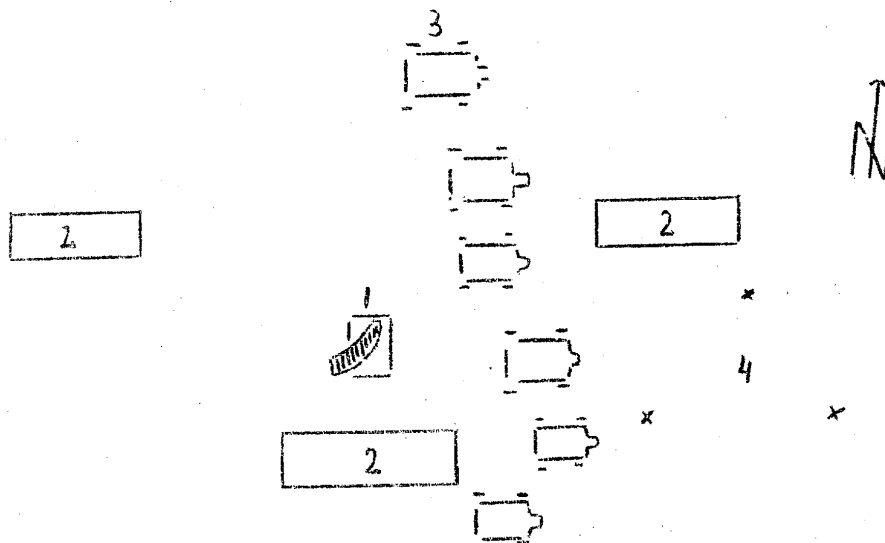
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Legend: See next page.



CPS-6 Radar Station at Lorseburg AirfieldLegend.

- 1 CPS-6 set
- 2 Single story semi-permanent buildings
- 3 Radio trucks
- 4 Rod antennas

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